

The Nelsons in Paris



Dear Friends,

Paris, 15th March 2026

We have been studying Haggai in our home groups since January. God's people were lethargic, fearful and discouraged in rebuilding God's temple after the return from exile. We can look at God's great building project today (his church, built on Jesus, the true temple) and feel a little embarrassed about the state it is in, or worse prioritise our own personal building projects over his. How encouraging that he speaks to them repeatedly, challenging them, but above all promising them his presence and his blessing. And what a promise to hold on to for the church : "The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts." (2v9) Please pray that we would keep looking to the beauty of God's promise, rather than being discouraged by the work left to be done.

Praise God for the ways he has been building his church, in answer to your prayers :

- **Thanks for the four church-planting couples we assessed** with Acts 29 in January. It was a privilege to spend time with them and talk through their projects : Melanie and Thomas in Toulouse, Sabrina and Steve near Lyon, Jonathan and Marielle in Geneva, and Gaël and Grace outside of Paris. Pray for each of these projects, that the Lord would be at work by his Spirit, preparing hearts and building his church.
- **Thanks for *Transmets La Parole***, where 100 women came for training in bible-teaching. We read all of Psalm 119 (!) and had a great time in seminars learning how to dig into God's word and teach it better.
- **Thanks too for the annual 2 Timothée 2,2 Retreat** for the 25 interns and their spouses. We had a wonderful time with them studying Ephesians and talking about the challenges and joys of full-time ministry. Do pray on for them, in particular some of the wives who expressed fears and struggles in trusting God and making sacrifices for the gospel.

Please pray with us :

- On **March 21st** I am speaking at the *Chrétiennes Engagées* conference in Paris for about 400 women about rest, trying to do a bit of biblical theology together over three sessions. Please pray for wisdom in applying God's word to a diverse crowd, and most of all for a joyful resting in Christ's finished work for us as we wait to finally enter God's perfect rest. Pray that I would live that truth as I prepare !
- Church leaders and young people are starting to get in touch about **next year's internships**. It is great to see more and more churches wanting to join in and foster a culture of training. Please pray Matthew 9.38 with us, as Jesus asked his disciples to do, that the Lord would raise up more workers for the harvest field. We were in Grenoble last Saturday for a "Journée 2T22" and in May we will be presenting the internship programme at 2 very big gatherings of evangelical church leaders and youth leaders.
- **March 23rd – 28th** we are welcoming a small team of students from the IBB (Brussels Bible Institute) to help us run a **week of outreach events at Ternes church**. I will be helping them plan an **Easter family fun day (27th)** on the theme of The Great Escape (Revelation 1v17-18), hopefully inviting some of the families who came to the holiday club in October. I will also be hosting an event for women where Myriam Hely-Hutchinson, an art historian married to the director of the Institute, will explain Jesus' water to wine miracle, using the bible text but also interacting with Veronese's famous painting of The Wedding at Cana. We will probably throw in a wine tasting too. Please pray that a lot of my local friends would come along, including a group of ladies with whom I go to art exhibitions quite regularly. And please pray for ideas about God being a miserable killjoy to be smashed to bits and for them to see his generous grace and the love that took him to the cross for his bride.
- **Easter Sunday** is a great opportunity to celebrate our hope in Christ – please pray for regulars and guests alike to be assured of the historicity and power of Jesus' death and resurrection.

In family news, Alex is facing three weeks of very tough exams in April/May and is showing great perseverance. Lucie is preparing to go to Berlin for 6 weeks in May/June. Samuel has just joined the CU committee in Edinburgh and is also working hard for exams. And, very excitingly, Nicolas and Lucy are expecting a baby for late September ! Please pray for them as they prepare for yet more change, trusting in God's grace and strength.

Yours because His, Laura, Samuel, Alex and Lucie xxx



Top and left : The Transmets La Parole conference, the team includes 5 interns or former interns. Middle : 2T22 day in Grenoble Bottom left : 2T22 retreat in January. Bottom right : snapped by a neighbour as I chatted with the local mayor and his assistant, campaigning for the local elections at the market.

